

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer comprising

providing a colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex which consists ~~essentially~~ of DNA sequestered within cationic lipids or cationic polymers and which has a cationic surface potential, and

converting the cationic surface potential of the DNA complex to a neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting the cationic lipids or the cationic polymers in the DNA complex with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential.

Claims 2 to 6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers are selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said complex further ~~comprises~~ consists of a targeting ligand covalently attached to said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 to 32 (Canceled)